

Elgin OPERA Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Visit us on the web at
www.elginopera.org
http://elginopera.wordpress.com/

“LOVE & FAIRY TALES: AN EVENING WITH MOZART AND JOHANN STRAUSS”

May 1, 2 & 3: Elgin OPERA will present “Love & Fairy Tales,” a program of staged excerpts from Die Zauberflöte (Magic Flute) by Mozart and Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss. The program will feature members of the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble, as well as local professional singers.

The performances will take place in the Kimball Street Theatre in the Rider Center on the campus of Elgin Academy. Performances begin at 8pm on Friday and Saturday, and a 3pm matinee on Sunday.

Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. To make Ticket Reservations, call the OPERA Office at 847-695-5014 or email us at office@elginopera.org .

A dinner/performance package (lunch on Sunday) will be available through Al’s Café in Elgin. Cost will be \$ 25 for adults without alcohol, \$29 for adults with a glass of wine/sangria, \$9.50 for Children, all inclusive service. Space is limited to 50 patrons. Contact the OPERA Office for reservations (847)695-5014

Love & Fairy Tales
 Staged & Costumed production

Excerpts from Die Zauberflöte by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Highlights from Mozart’s Masterpiece of Singspiel – The Magic Flute

Die Fledermaus: Act II
 by Johann Strauss
 A rollicking masquerade party at the home of Prince Orlofsky

Featuring Members of the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble
 Alongside local professional singers

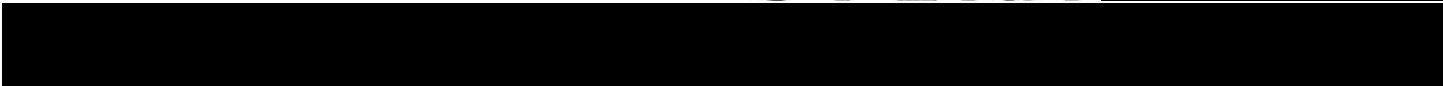
Cast will include:
 Kimberly Albrecht
 Katherine Dalin
 Susan Dennis
 Laura Fredrickson
 Heather Giebel
 Matthew Giebel
 George Holmes
 Ingrid Israel
 Kristen Johnston
 Teppei Kono
 Valerie Meachum
 Paula Mrazek
 Paul Scavone
 Solange Sior
 Brianne Sura
 And additional EOTE members



FESTIVAL OF SINGERS

Elgin OPERA continues to sing most Sundays 6-8pm at Villa Verone Ristorante Italiano (13 Douglas Avenue, Elgin)

For reservations and to confirm Elgin OPERA’s performance on a particular Sunday, contact Villa Verone at (847) 742-0263



EOTE ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: VICTORIA NARAYAN

"The first time I heard Solange sing opera, I knew I wanted to learn to sing that way"

In search of a voice teacher to help her with musical theatre audition material, Victoria Narayan began taking voice lessons with Solange Sior five years ago. Victoria's lessons with Solange have been integral in developing her musical aspirations.

Solange introduced Victoria to opera through Elgin Opera, which has become her chosen art form and career path. Singing with Elgin Opera taught her how to perform, sing difficult harmonies, and work with a conductor. She has benefited greatly from working with actual professionals in classical music in performances such as *Madame Butterfly*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Die Fledermaus*. Victoria states, "Not only did I get to observe them at work and get an idea of what I wanted to do, but I also learned how to work and act like a professional myself. I can attribute my success in all of my subsequent performance experiences to having been a member of Elgin Opera."

In addition to Elgin Opera, Victoria was a member of Elgin Children's Chorus for eight years and has been in several musical theatre productions.

Some of her favorite roles include: Bobbie/Gabby in *City of Angels*, Consuelo in *West Side Story*, Prudie in *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, Lady Macbeth in *The Scottish Play*, Fraulien Schnieder in *Cabaret*, and The Wardrobe in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Victoria occasionally has voice lessons with Solange. She benefits greatly from these sessions, saying, "I value her opinion in my career and vocal development so much."

Victoria's success is apparent through her numerous accomplishments. She has the lead role in her school musical of *City of Angels*. She was also in a regional community theatre premiere of the musical *Rent*. Over this past summer, she attended the Washington National Opera's Opera Institute for Young Singers, which is a pres-

tigious summer program for high school and college singers. At this program, Victoria was able to attend classes in Opera History, Italian diction, Music Theory, Art Song Literature, and Scenes Performance. She was also one of about twelve students selected to perform in the final performance at the Kennedy Center. Victoria was a Chicago finalist in the Classical Singer High School Vocal Competition of 2008 and was invited to compete in New York. Further, she was the second place winner in the teen division of Elgin Opera's First Annual Voice Competition.

Victoria is currently a member of the High School Training Ensemble division of the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble. She recently completed her recital and will soon graduate from the Chicago Academy for the Arts, where she is a musical theatre major. Victoria has substantial scholarship offers, up to \$80,000 over four years, which will help her pursue her career in music.

A TASTE OF ITALY DVD AVAILABLE

Loved our performance at A Taste of Italy, January 31, 2009?

Now you have the chance to own your own professional DVD of the performance.

For the low cost of only \$25 you can bring home a piece of Elgin OPERA history.

Excellently crafted by John Fleener, Videography Instructor of the Elgin Academy, this delightful two-disc DVD is sure to delight both the eye and ear.

The DVD is available exclusively for our valued patrons, sponsors and performers

such as yourself.

To reserve your copies, contact the OPERA Office at (847)695-5014 or by email at office@elginopera.org.



ELGIN OPERA T-SHIRTS AND MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Elgin OPERA long sleeve T-shirts are still available. Contact the OPERA office if you are interested in purchasing one- Only \$18 to be the picture of style with Elgin OPERA.

Additional Elgin OPERA merchandise, including a variety of t-shirt styles, bumper stickers and much more are available at

www.cafepress.com/elginopera

SPONSORS OF THE MONTH: JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

January:

Dr. Dorothea Poulos

Multi-Month Donor

Elgin Family Physicians
 915 Center St. Suite 3000 Elgin
 2320 Royal Blvd. Suite D Elgin
 847-888-3661

February:

Dr. Robert Albrecht

Northwest Eye Center
 27790 West Hwy. 22 Suite 27
 Barrington, Illinois
 847-382-3640
 Sponsorship in honor of Kimberly Albrecht, Emerging Artist in the Elgin OPERA Training Ensemble

March:

Dr. Dorothea Poulos

Multi-Month Donor

Elgin Family Physicians
 915 Center St. Ste 3000 Elgin
 2320 Royal Blvd. Ste D Elgin
 847-888-3661

SPONSORS OF THE MONTH: APRIL & MAY; SPECIAL THANKS

April:

Norman V. McCabe

May

James A. & Barbara Bellini

Special thanks to

Russ P. Ruffalo of MRK Group Ltd. for the donation of a much needed second computer for our office at Elgin Academy. Additional thanks to Dan Davison for installing necessary software to the computer.

We are also very grateful to Andrew A. Knox, CPA; Jennifer Bellini J.D., Grant Writer; Suzanne Scherr Steger, Marketing Consultant; Professor Keith Jenkins, Information Technology Systems.

A very special thank you to e3 design group for its promotional graphic design services, and to John Patton for creating our website.

3RD ANNUAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Elgin OPERA presents our 3rd annual Vocal Competition throughout the month of June.

The preliminary round (June 6 & 7) and the Semifinals (June 13 & 14) will take place in the Kimball Street Theatre at the New Rider Center, located on the Elgin Academy Campus.

The finals will take place June 27 & 28 in the Professional Building, 8th floor, 164 Division Street in Elgin.

The competition is divided into four age groups which accommodate artists of any age. Top finalists are awarded prizes which range from \$100-\$500 in each category.

The application deadline is June 1, but space is limited so apply early.

If you are interested in receiving further details or a registration form, contact the OPERA office at 847-695-5014 or by email at office@elginopera.org. Applications can also be downloaded directly from our website: www.elginopera.org/competition.php



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performances
on the campus
of Elgin
Academy**

Check out online reviews for Taste of Italy:

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/geneva/entertainment/x185283926/Concert-to-deliver-Italian-opera-favorites>

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/entertainment/1404517,3_EL29_Elgin-Opera-hosts-Taste-of-Italy.article

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/print/?id=267182>

<http://www.oakparkjournal.com/2008/2009-Elgin-Opera-Gala-Jan-31-8pm.html>

www.elginopera.org

We have joined the wonderful world of blogging. To follow the most up to date workings of Elgin OPERA visit us at: <http://elginopera.wordpress.com/>

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<p>Wish List: Elgin OPERA is always in need of office supplies. Here is a list of items which you could donate to help the organization: Paper shredder Cardstock Paper cutter File Folders Mailing Labels Paper Stackable letter trays Desktop office supply organizer</p> <p>OPERA Guild: Watch your mail and messages for information regarding an upcoming Guild Luncheon.</p>	<p>SUPPORT ELGIN OPERA: AUCTION & COFFEE</p>		
<p>Sunday, May 17th at 6:00PM, Elgin Opera will partner with Highland Christian Academy with, "Opera Comes To Highland" concert. This fund-raiser will benefit both the Elgin Opera and Highland Christian Academy. There will be several vocalists performing along with a silent auction to benefit both organizations. Tickets will be \$5.00 and we will also provide an opportunity for giving more by taking an offering during the event. Please plan on attending</p>	<p>a great evening of music that will include Opera, Broadway and Inspirational music. Flyers will be available and you can contact Highland Christian Academy (847-741-5530) or Elgin Opera (847-695-5014) for more information. The concert event will be held at Highland Christian Academy at 2250 W. Highland Ave in Elgin</p> <p>Interested in donating an auction item, Contact Elgin OPERA for details.</p>	<p>Need a little motivation to start your spring cleaning? Caffeinate yourself with delicious coffee and tea from Elgin OPERA.</p> <p>All coffees are available for immediate purchase in either whole bean or ground. The 1lb bag of your favorite blend is just \$15. The half pound bag and tea box are available for \$10.</p> <p>Just call Meghan Smeenge with Elgin OPERA at 847-741-1184. Know that with every sip, you are supporting Elgin OPERA</p>	